



**Nathan Deal**  
*Governor*

**Bobby Cagle, MSW**  
*Commissioner*

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## **DECAL Seeks Volunteers for 2013 Stakeholder Advisory Network**

*14 Groups help influence future policies for  
Georgia's earliest learners, birth to five years old*

**ATLANTA, Ga., (September 6, 2012)** – Bobby Cagle, commissioner of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), is seeking volunteers for his agency's advisory network made up of 14 committees advising the Commissioner and DECAL on policy priorities for Georgia's earliest learners, birth to five years old. The committees engage a variety of stakeholders including Pre-K parents, Pre-K teachers, school superintendents, child care owners and directors, business leaders and the faith community. New terms for committee members will begin January 1, 2013.

"The Advisory Network assures that the community has a voice in influencing the future direction and policy priorities of DECAL," said Cagle. "In addition to inviting feedback regularly on departmental policy and operations, these meetings allow me to hear directly from more than 100 Georgia citizens who are interested in early childhood education and care. We also discuss the impact of statewide trends and the local issues that are unique to each group and community."

Improved communications with the community has been a priority for Commissioner Cagle since being appointed to the position by Governor Nathan Deal in January, 2011. Using the latest technology, meetings are held via conference call and webinar, saving the time and cost of travel.

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Advisory committees focus on Georgia's Pre-K Program, Child Care Subsidy, Child Care Services, Nutrition Services, Quality Initiatives, Infant and Toddler Care, Faith-based, Business Community and Philanthropy. Advisory Committee members are interviewed and appointed by Commissioner Cagle and serve a one-year term.

Anyone interested in being considered for service on a DECAL Advisory Committee should [click here](#) to apply. If you have additional questions, please contact Deidria Bolden, director of special projects, at 404-232-1612 or e-mail at [Deidria.Bolden@decalfga.gov](mailto:Deidria.Bolden@decalfga.gov). The deadline for applications is Friday, November 2, 2012.

### **About Bright from the Start**

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to [www.decalfga.gov](http://www.decalfga.gov).

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